

Barbara Nieves  
68 Partridge Court  
Watertown, CT 06795

Appropriations Committee  
Legislative Office  
Room 2700  
Hartford , CT 06101

Dear Appropriations Committee:

This letter is in reference to the proposed transfer of funding for the Birth To Three program from the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) to the Department of Social Services (DSS). My concern is in regards to DSS's ability to adequately administer funding for the Birth To Three program so that services to families and their children are not disrupted.

The fee for service system under CMS and DSS will negatively impact the quality of services for the children and their families. It will also result in the rise of costs to the local special education systems.

As a Birth to Three provider for more than 25 years, I strongly believe that funding for this program should remain under the Office of Early Childhood. It will also be a cost savings measure to local special education programs.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Nieves MS –CCC/SLP  
speech-language pathologist